



# The Tale of the Bird Kingdom and the Quest for a King

Once upon a time, in a world where every sound had a special meaning, the animals and tools spoke their own language. Smith's hammers sang of hard work, carpenter's planes whistled about crafting, and even the mill wheels had their own tales to tell. In this magical world, birds, too, had a language understood by all, filled with songs and stories.

One bright day, the birds decided it was time to have a king to rule over them. Only the green plover, a lover of freedom, disagreed and flew away to live alone. Meanwhile, all the other birds, from majestic eagles to tiny sparrows, gathered in a great meeting. Even the cuckoo and his assistant, the hoopoe, joined, alongside a tiny, nameless bird.

The hen, surprised by the gathering, clucked curiously, but the cock explained they were choosing a king. Their challenge? To find the bird who could fly the highest. As they soared into the sky, a massive flutter of wings filled the air, creating a sight like a swirling cloud. The little birds soon tired, but the mighty eagle soared highest, nearly touching the sun, and thought himself the winner. But the tiny, nameless bird, hidden in the eagle's feathers, flew even higher, reaching the heavens, and declared himself the king.

The other birds, however, accused him of cheating and set a new challenge: to find who could burrow the deepest into the earth. The birds tried their best, but the tiny bird cleverly hid in a mouse-hole, claiming victory again.

Angry and feeling tricked, the birds decided to imprison the little bird in the hole, guarded by the owl. As night fell, the tired birds went to their nests, leaving the owl to watch. But even owls get sleepy, and as she dozed off, the little bird escaped!

Since then, the owl hides by day, fearing the anger of other birds, and the tiny bird, though he sometimes proclaims his kingship from the hedges, stays hidden, too shy to face the others. And the lark, happiest of all, sings joyfully each morning, grateful for her freedom under the wide, beautiful sky.